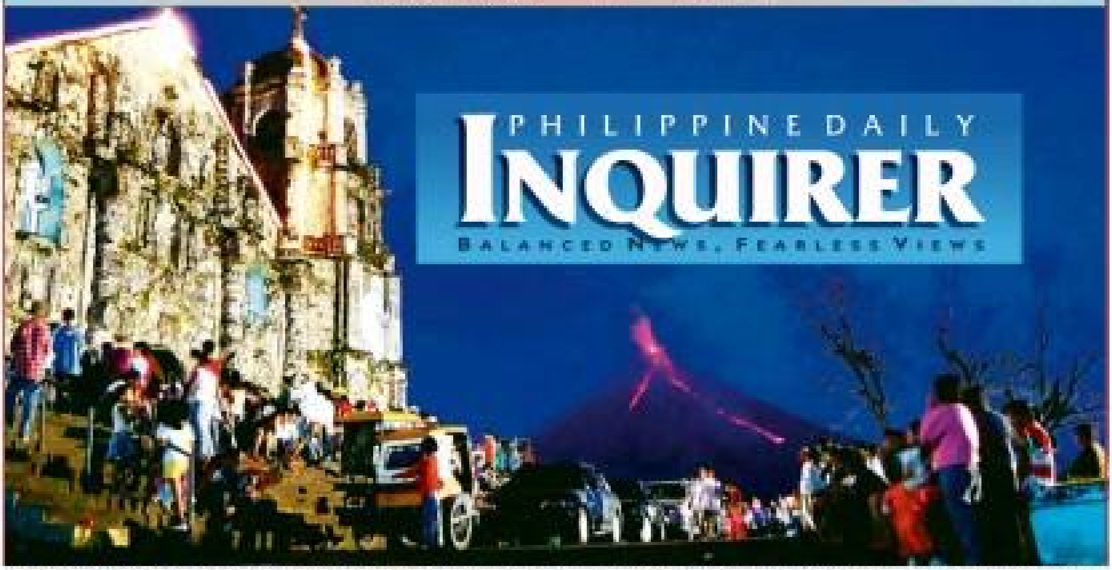
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



THE BEAUTY AND THE FURY Mount Mayon provides a stunning, albeit menacing, backdrop for the faithful converging at the Our Lady of the Gate Church in Daraga, Albay, for the third of the nine dawn Masses leading to Christmas Day. The faithful believe that by completing the nine Masses, they will be granted their special wish, perhaps for a major eruption-free holiday season.

Ampatuan Jr. mobbed



IN THE CRUSH Andal Ampatuan Jr., the principal suspect in the Nov. 23 massacre of 57 people, including 30 media workers, is crowded by his escorts and angry journalists as he leaves the Department of Justice after a preliminary investigation. Inset: The Datu Unsay mayor gets hit on the head from someone wielding a camera.

'Here are the people you killed!'

By Norman Bordadora

THE POWERFUL AMpatuan family yesterday declined to contest the complaints filed against its members in connection with the Nov. 23 massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao, saying it did not expect a fair preliminary investigation.

Sigfrid Fortun, legal counsel of the Ampatuan family members accused in the multiple murder case filed at the Department of Justice, told the panel of state prosecutors that his clients would not submit a counter-affidavit to the complaints filed by the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"In connection with the statements made by Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera that the case is strong and that the Am-

AMPATUAN A6

Woman judge gets guards, reaps praises

By Nancy C. Carvajal and Julie M. Aurelio

WITHOUT HER ASKING, SECURity measures have been taken for the woman judge assigned to hear the multiple murder case against Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. et al. in connection with the Maguindanao massacre.

Police teams were deployed to guard Judge Jocelyn Solis

WOMAN A6

Women on forefront in massacre case

By Norman Bordadora

WOMEN ARE TAKING A HIGH profile in the multiple murder case involving members of the Ampatuan family of Maguindanao.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera yesterday told reporters she had noticed that women were dominating the case after Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Jocelyn Solis Reyes took on the job of trying Andal Ampatuan Jr. and others implicated in the Nov. 23 massacre of 57 people.

"I just noticed while I was watching from my office that it is developing into an all-women affair," Devanadera said.

But Senior State Prosecutor Rosanne Balauag said she would not read too much into her chairing the panel that would determine whether charges would be filed in court against some of the most influential, even feared, personalities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"It's just a coincidence," said Balauag, who is one of two women in the panel (the other is State Prosecutor Arqueette Ortile).

"It's just another case where we're simply doing our job. We're simply complying with

WOMEN A6

Poor boys once, Manny goes for Manny

By Aquiles Zonio and Rosa May de Guzman
Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THEY PARtied all night, then sealed the deal at 1 a.m.

World boxing icon Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao formally joined the ranks of the opposition under the Nacionalista Party, taking his oath early Friday before Sen. Manny Villar, the NP candidate in the 2010 presidential race.

Pacquiao made it official in a simple ceremony held at the champ's mansion in Lagao village here, a few hours following his lavish birthday bash at the KCC Convention Center where about 2,000 guests came to greet the 31-year-old multititled boxer.

Witnessing the rite of alliance between the two Mannys was NP senatorial candidate Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

POOR A8



AFTER-PARTY His birthday party's over but there's another party for Manny Pacquiao. He raises the hand of Sen. Manny Villar, the Nacionalista Party standard-bearer.

LEGAL TUSSLE

Turtle island sold to Tawi-Tawi gov

By Alcuin Papa and Nikko Dizon

THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE IDYLLIC TURTLE ISLANDS, a remote and isolated corner of the country whose importance as a sanctuary and nesting site for the fragile green sea turtle is recognized internationally.

Always under threat from human activity, the sea creatures face the prospect of losing their protected sanctuary because of a brewing ownership dispute over their island haven.

According to Omarkhan Aripin, the mayor of the Turtle Islands—an island group municipality in Tawi-

TURTLE A6



2009: When reality TV became part of our reality

NEW YORK—LITTLE FALCON HEENE OF "BALloon Boy" fame surely had no idea he was encapsulating an entire year of popular culture when he told his parents on national TV: "You guys said that we did this for the show."

Reality TV has been around for a decade, but this year, the genre seemed to seep into

2009 WHEN A11

GMA calls for 'new global order'

By Michael Lim Ubac

COPENHAGEN—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has called for "a new global order" to combat climate change amid the continued failure of negotiators here to clinch a deal to cut heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere.

She was the 35th speaker to address the plenary session.

"We come to Copenhagen in partnership with other nations to find a way to meet the harsh impacts of climate change and avert a global climate crisis," Ms Arroyo said, addressing the high-level plenary session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen (COP15) at 5 p.m. Thursday (midnight in Manila).

GMA CALLS A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

Congress ratifies P1.5-T budget



CONGRESS RATIFIED LAST NIGHT THE P1.540 trillion national budget next year, which is P400 million less than what was proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Budget cutbacks

Protest vote

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Freebies in Copenhagen

Real work

Press cans

Disini seeks new travel clearance

Showing up

'No proof'

RP crewman dead as cargo ship sinks



Son says Danding is fine

In and out

Party emeritus







Employers told: Don't forget 13th month pay

The Daily Gospel



Tourist arrivals up; soldiers evacuate 12,000 from villages at Mayon's base

Within weeks

Disaster tourism

Panoramic view

Beauty and fury

Most active of 22 volcanoes

14 Filipino sailors freed by pirates

NAIROBI—SOMALI PIRATES HAVE released the Greek-owned ship MV Delvina, a Kenyan maritime official said on Thursday.

The bulk carrier shipping which was seized on Nov. 5, northwest of Madagascar. It had 21 crew on board, seven Ukrainians and 14 Filipinos.

"They must have paid a ransom," said Andrew Mwangura of the Kenya-based East Africa Seafarers' Association. "It's on its way to Mombasa."

Heavily armed Somali pirates have made tens of millions of dollars in ransom by hijacking ships in the Indian Ocean and strategic Gulf of Aden, which links Europe to Asia, despite multiplying naval operations there.

Delvina's company, Strathmay Shipping, said in a statement the ship was released on Thursday afternoon and that all of the crew was unharmed despite 43 days in captivity.

The vessel was hijacked to the northeast of the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean while sailing from Ukraine to Mombasa in Kenya, it said, but would not disclose further information on its release.

"The company does not wish to jeopardize the safety of other vessels or crews that are still held by pirates in the area," it said. *Reuters*

The bright ideas from young minds showcase in BGC Passionfest

Bonifacio Global City's (BGC) Ideas Forum and Hope Fair were held recently at Bonifacio High Street last Dec. 11 to 13. Both events aim to nurture the ideas of bright young minds and are part of the city's Christmas "Passionfest". Catch the last weekend of the Hope Fair today and tomorrow Dec. 19 and 20, plus the "Voices" acapella show of The Tux at 8:00 pm tomorrow.

IDEAS FORUM



Students groups listening to the inspiring talks



Students with some of the forum speakers



Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) officials Noel Kintanar (Head of Commercial Operations) and Lourdes Reyes (Chief Finance Officer), with Mac Diaz



Mac Diaz moderating the discussion

HOPE FAIR



Hope Fair at Bonifacio High Street: products for a cause



Mini replicas of the BGC Christmas installations on sale during the Hope Fair, proceeds of the sale will go to the beneficiaries of BGC and Team Company



Various products from the socio-civic groups and students attract shoppers

Ampatuan Jr. mobbed by raging crowd





LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! Members of the media break through a security cordon to thrust photos of massacre victims at Andal Ampatuan Jr. as he is led by NBI agents under extremely tight security to the Department of Justice for a preliminary investigation.

Next hearing: Dec. 28

'Just doing my job'

4-vehicle convoy

Shoved and pawning

Hit by cameraman

Woman judge gets guards, reaps praises even from Palace

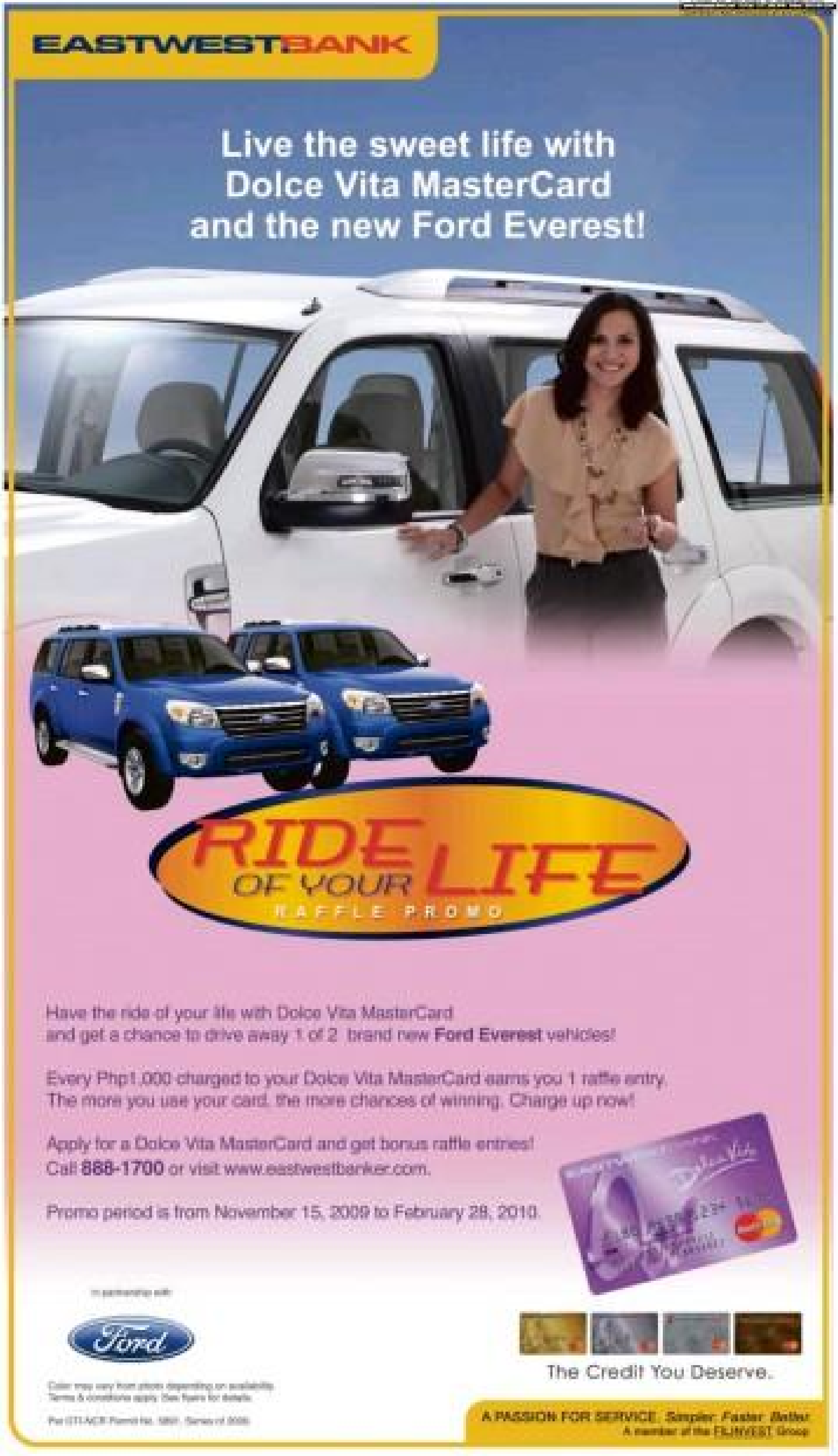
'Judge Josie'

'Best man for job'

Palace impressed

Women on forefront in massacre case

'I'm just hungry'


EASTWESTBANK
Live the sweet life with
Dolce Vita MasterCard
and the new Ford Everest!
RIDE OF YOUR LIFE
RAFFLE PROMO
Have the ride of your life with Dolce Vita MasterCard
and get a chance to drive away 1 of 2 brand new Ford Everest vehicles!
Every Php1,000 charged to your Dolce Vita MasterCard earns you 1 raffle entry.
The more you use your card, the more chances of winning. Charge up now!
Apply for a Dolce Vita MasterCard and get bonus raffle entries!
Call 888-1700 or visit www.eastwestbanker.com.
Promo period is from November 15, 2009 to February 28, 2010.
Ford
The Credit You Deserve.
A PASSION FOR SERVICE. Simpler. Faster. Better.
A member of the FILINVEST Group

Poor boys once, Manny goes for Manny of NP





Humble beginnings

Palace airs regret

VIPs galore

Car raffled off

Rock star

One of world's only 10 existing nesting sites for green sea turtles

Heritage site

Access via Malaysia

Turtle island sold to Tawi-Tawi governor





Seeking help in Manila

DENR probe

Incipient warlordism

Owner's waiver

Elections to decide outcome

MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE

2 Army officers cleared of negligence

Cleared, but...

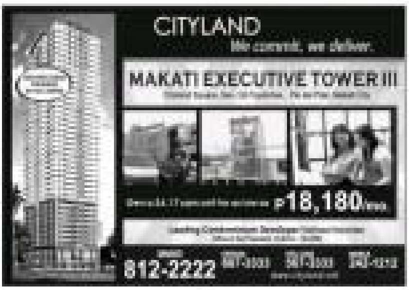
Bloodbath

Civilian rule returns in Maguindanao

Immigration to have 6 new area offices

Gennie Q. Jota; 74

















Halinang Mamili!

Sa mga Bagsakan Center at iba pang palengke sa Metro Manila ng karneng baboy, manok, isda, asukal at mga gulay — na mura ng P5 hanggang P10 kada kilo



Mga paninda	Presyo kada kilo	Bagsakan Center
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



US set to resume dev't projects in Maguindanao

EXPECT AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT PROJects in Maguindanao to resume shortly, according to outgoing US ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney.

The US Agency for International Development (Usaid), which is overseeing Maguindanao's projects in that province in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, will be back there as soon as they can, Kenney told reporters.

The projects include building classrooms, school libraries, roads and boat landing areas, and putting up solar panels.

According to Kenney, the US embassy in Manila and Usaid were "monitoring [the] situation in Maguindanao day by day."

"In the very instant we think it's the right thing to do, we will be back there," she said.

Kenney noted Maguindanao folk "need us more than ever and as things progressively settle down, we want our work back there."

Earlier, the American ambassador said the Nov. 23 massacre, which killed 57 people, including 30 journalists, prompted the US government to suspend its projects in Maguindanao.

Kenney said she did not want any of its aid and embassy employees to get hurt.

She said it was "normal when you have a massacre like that and you don't know who's behind it or what happened."

Kenney assured "as soon as it looks like it's safe, we will be back at work. I don't want to suspend the projects any longer."

Early this week, US embassy spokesperson Rebecca Thompson said that despite the lifting of martial law in Maguindanao, Washington's development projects there remained indefinitely suspended.

Usaid programs in the province were "on hold until we feel confident about the safety of our personnel that work on the development projects." *Jerry E. Esplanada*



Makati court orders arrest of businessman in bribe try

[illegible]

Not valid

[illegible]





INQUIRER

OPINION

One gutsy lady

EDITORIAL



Ecological consciousness

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

Damning inconsistency puts Comelec on trial

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

Filipinos rarely approve of martial law

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

Christmas every day

YOUNG BLOOD

Samuel M. Chuah

For all the marbles

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

Educational preparation for judges

BUSINESS MATTERS



Ricardo J. Romulo

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

THEY SAID

Odious edge, obvious reasons

Keep out of politics, CNN hero cautioned

LETTERS

New Zealanders voice outrage over massacre

More than an envoy

Clarification on 3 items

World leaders rush climate pact

Two degrees

Desperate situation

Climate aid fund

After Kyoto

GMA calls for 'new global order' against climate change

Bigger emission cuts



COPENHAGEN ADDRESS

The Filipino carbon footprint

Climate justice

Legarda fills in gaps

Walk the talk

Not in the form of loans

2009: When reality TV became part of our reality



LOOK WHO'S FAMOUS NOW



BOY WHO CRIED REALITY TV



YESTERDAY

Phelps inhales

How to wear guyliner

Expletives, apologies

Hold that Tiger

Across the NATION

Mystery over Ampatuan guns deepens

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—MANY OF THE GUNS THAT were seized from the Ampatuan clan bore the same serial numbers as those in firearms carried by government soldiers, indicating these were either duplicated or tampered with, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado said.

300 Fontana workers hold picket over delay in CBA



LIFE ON THE RUN

Woman worker in Cagayan's biggest casino dies in clash

NPAs raid road project in Davao Oriental

Bago City folk promised bigger fireworks show

Rites for hero Lopez Jaena turn into call for justice

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

'He exposed ills in and out of government and wrote amid risks at that time ...'



INQUIRER Visayas

Political families revive poll rivalries

By Vicente Labro
Tacloban City

FOUR CANDIDATES seeking reelection for top provincial posts and a first-time congressional candidate in Leyte are running unopposed in next year's polls.

[illegible]

Negros Occ. excels in local governance

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

THE NEGROS OCCIDENTAL provincial government was recognized as the 'best performing province in Western Visayas' and bagged five other special awards during the 2009 Excellence in Local Governance (Excell) awarding ceremony held on Tuesday in Iloilo City, Gov. Isidro Zayco said.

[illegible]

Comelec execs sharpen shooting skills in Dumaguete

By Alex Pal
Dumaguete City

TOP OFFICIALS OF THE Commission on Elections flew to Dumaguete City on the First Saturday of December to hone their shooting skills in a Comelec-sponsored gun competition.

[illegible]



REGIONAL directors and election supervisors of the Commission on Elections from the Visayas and Mindanao, [illegible] attend the first Comelec-sponsored shooting competition [illegible] in Sibulan, Negros Oriental, on Saturday.

A plus METRO

Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

USE OF RABBITS IN CLASS EXPERIMENTS

Peta scores school for animal cruelty

By Tina G. Santos

ANIMAL RIGHTS ADVOCATE People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) has called on officials of a medical school to end the institution's "cruel and unnecessary practice" of using animals in class experiments.

In his letter to Dr. Remedios Habacon, dean of the Far Eastern University-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation's Institute of Medicine, Peta Asia director Jason Baker said they had received several complaints about rabbits being bludgeoned to death to extract a small part of their intestines. All this was done without any anesthetic being applied, he added.

The complaints, Baker pointed, came from concerned students.

"The killing of animals for class experiments is not only cruel but also unnecessary as there are better alternatives currently available. Medical schools are places where students should learn to care about and respect life, not cause living beings needless pain and fear," he said.

"Many of the top medical schools in the world have stopped using live animals for teaching purposes, and Far Eastern University should follow their lead and modernize its curricula," Baker said.

He noted that medical schools in the United States, including Harvard, Stanford and Yale, have replaced the use of live animals in physiology, pharmacology and surgical training exercises with humane and effective non-animal teaching methods.

The Inquirer [illegible] failed to reach FEU-NRMF officials for comment.

Ynares: Some areas in Rizal still flooded

By DJ Yap

SOME LAKESIDE COMMUNITIES IN RIZAL province remain submerged in floodwaters nearly three months after the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy," Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III said yesterday.

Ynares said two barangays in Binangonan town are still flooded in ankle to knee-deep waters and one each in Cardona, Angono and Taytay towns.

About 9,000 people are still in evacuation centers throughout the province, although the number fluctuates as people who were displaced from their shelters come and go, he added.

"Up to now, we're still handling our basic provisions for these people, like food and water," he said.

Ynares said the provincial government is arranging the relocation of the displaced residents to a settlement in Baras town, in which some 2,500 houses will be built.

He added that several bridges and roads damaged by Ondoy have yet to be repaired. Provincial engineers had placed the damage to infrastructure at P2 billion.

Rizal province, along with eastern Metro Manila, was severely hit on Sept. 26 by Ondoy which destroyed billions of pesos worth of property and killed dozens of people.

Reward for Ivler's arrest now ₱1M

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE FAMILY OF VICTOR RENATO EBARLE Jr. has offered P500,000 for the arrest of Jason Ivler, raising the reward for his capture to P1 million.

"We are confident the additional reward money will encourage those who know his location and coordinate with us," Chief Insp. Benjamin [illegible], deputy head of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said.

Ivler is believed to have shot dead Ebarle Jr., son of [illegible], Renato Ebarle Sr., over a traffic altercation on Nov. 18. He has since gone into hiding.

A search conducted on Wednesday night on two houses at Blue Ridge A Subdivision in Quezon City where Ivler was reportedly hiding yielded negative results.

Police officials earlier said they believed Ivler was still in Metro Manila or nearby provinces.

METRO BRIEFS

Teen killed, another injured

[illegible]

MMDA to repair footbridges

[illegible]

Car thieves strike in Las Piñas

[illegible]

Woman judge braver than male judge

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

[illegible]

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ziga

Inquiry produces little idea of why Air France jet crashed

PARIS—NEW AIRLINE SAFETY STANDARDS MAY BE REQUIRED after the crash of Air France Flight 447 cast doubt on the reliability of speed-measuring equipment in difficult, stormy conditions, French aviation investigators said on Thursday.

The Airbus A330 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil's coast en route from Rio de Janeiro to Paris on June 1. All 228 people aboard were killed.

Many families of victims have expressed frustration with the lack of information over the past six months. In its second report on the crash, French accident investigation agency BEA said experts still have little idea about why the plane went down.

John Clemes, whose brother was on the flight, said investigators told the victims' families on Thursday that the plane fell in less than five minutes.

BEA spokesperson Martine Del Bono did not return messages seeking confirmation, but the agency's study of automatic messages rendered by the plane seemed to confirm that.

"Nobody on that plane itself was prepared for the crash," although the pilots battled to save the plane, Clemes said. "Some things were tried at the last minute, so they were obviously trying to desperately get the plane back under control."

Automatic messages sent by the plane's computers just before it crashed show it was receiving false speed readings from sensors known as Pitot tubes. Experts have said malfunctioning tubes could have led to a violent stall...

...too fast a speed at high altitude could be dangerous.

BEA said the safety standards need to rectify plane equipment—particularly Pitot tubes—don't properly reflect high-altitude conditions. The report called for studies of cloud masses and icy conditions that may lead safety officials to modify the criteria.

Both the European Aviation Safety Agency and the US Federal Aviation Administration ordered airlines flying Airbus jets like the one that crashed to replace their French-made Thales Pitot tubes.

"It's a shame that 228 people had to die before they take these problems seriously," said Clemes. He said some families are still dissatisfied with BEA, but that he thinks "progress has been made" in the investigation.

Investigators repeatedly have insisted that the crash was likely caused by a series of failures and not just the Pitot tubes.

"It's true that there isn't enough known about the formation of ice crystals at high altitude and the impact that has on the Pitot tubes, for example," said Chris Yates, an independent aviation safety analyst based in Britain. "Having said that, what I think occurred here are way out circumstances."

Thursday's BEA report says the circumstances of the crash and its causes "are still not determined" but does describe some potential clues. It says there were "powerful cumulonimbus clusters" on the route flown by Flight 447 and that many planes flying in the area altered their routes to avoid the cloud masses.

Oxygen masks did not drop, and the plane did not depressurize, the report says. All of the life vests found were still in their wrappers, suggesting perhaps that passengers had little or no warning.

Autopsies have allowed the identification of 50 of the victims, including four flight attendants and the captain. Forty-three had fractures of the spinal column, thorax and pelvis suggesting the plane struck the water rapidly.

It also says the aircraft was probably in one piece upon impact.

The BEA report called for changes to flight recorders that should make them easier to locate. Additional beacons should be fitted to commercial aircraft and the "pingers" attached to the black boxes should emit signals for 90 instead of 30 days, it said.

BEA also recommended studying the possibility of requiring software on planes that regularly transmits basic flight parameters.

The plane's black boxes are believed to be nearly 7,000 meters underwater and without them, investigators say they may never determine what happened.

The second and most recent search for the black boxes ended in August. AP

Scientists: Hominid 2009's greatest breakthrough

WASHINGTON—The discovery of a 4.4-million-year-old skeleton, humankind's oldest known ancestor, was the greatest scientific breakthrough of 2009, the prestigious journal Science said on Thursday.

The fossil, known as Ardi, topped a list of the 10 greatest scientific advances for the year, which also featured the discovery of water on the moon and the use of ultra-thin carbon atom sheets in experimental electronic devices.

Ardi, or Ardipithecus ramidus, was the subject of 15 years of painstaking examination by anthropologists who said the find, in what is now Ethiopia, provided untold insights into human evolution.

At 1.2 million years older than "Lucy," previously the oldest known human ancestor, Ardi helped shatter popular myths about the direct similarity between humans and modern apes.

Many of the traits found in Ardi's skull, teeth, pelvis, hands and feet, showed that African apes have evolved extensively since sharing a common ancestor with humans.

It also quelled hopes of finding a missing link between humans and modern apes.

"Ardi changes the way we think about early human evolution," said Bruce Alberts, Science's editor.

Among the other developments listed by the journal was the discovery of previously unknown pulsars by Nasa's Fermi telescope, including one located 4,000 light-years from Earth.

The observations helped explain how a pulsar—the rapidly spinning and highly magnetized core of an exploded star—works, and how they contribute to electromagnetic radiation to the universe.



A DIGITALLY rendered composite hand of the "Ardi" partial skeleton

Astrophysics provided two spots of the Top 10 advances of the year, including Nasa's discovery of ice water on the moon.

In October the US space agency slammed a missile into the permanently shadowed Cabeus crater, near the moon's southern pole, at around 9,000 km per hour.

It was followed four minutes later by a spacecraft equipped with instruments that detected significant amounts of ice water.

Nasa was also praised by Science for astronauts' repairs of the Hubble space telescope, providing unprecedented images of our universe. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

US: Insurgents hacked drone spy videos

WASHINGTON—Insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan have hacked into live video feeds from Predator drones, a key weapon in a Pentagon spy system that serves as the US military's eyes in the sky for surveillance and intelligence collection. Though militants could see the video, there is no evidence they were able to jam the electronic signals from the unmanned aerial craft or take control of the vehicles, a senior defense official said on Thursday. Obtaining the video feeds can provide insurgents with critical information about what the military may be targeting, including buildings, roads and other facilities. Shiite fighters in Iraq used off-the-shelf software programs such as SkyGrabber—available for as little as $25.95 on the Internet—to regularly capture drone video feeds, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday. The interception, first done more than a year ago, was possible because the remotely flown planes had unprotected communications links. Within the last several months, the military has found evidence of at least one instance where insurgents in Afghanistan also monitored US drone video, a second defense official said. AP

Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Jones dies at 90



JONES

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Jones, the American leading lady who won an Oscar for playing Saint Bernadette in the 1943 movie "The Song of Bernadette," died at her home in Malibu on Thursday at age 90. Jones enjoyed a critically acclaimed career in the 1940s and 1950s, including being controversially cast as a biracial seductress "Duel in the Sun." Her leading men included Gregory Peck, Laurence Olivier, Humphrey Bogart and Rock Hudson, with whom she starred in the 1957 war movie "A Farewell to Arms." Jones was married three times, including to influential "Gone With the Wind" producer David O. Selznick and industrialist Norton Simon whose art collection became the basis for the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. A spokesperson for the museum announced Jones's death of natural causes. The actress made her last screen appearance in "The Towering Inferno" in 1974, where she danced with Fred Astaire before a fire engulfed party-goers in a skyscraper. Reuters

Irish bishop quits over sex abuse

DUBLIN—The Pope on Thursday accepted the resignation of an Irish bishop who was criticized for covering up child sex abuse, but pressure remained on other clergy to go over a scandal that has rocked Ireland. Pope Benedict XVI accepted Limerick Bishop Donal Murray's request to quit after the Irishman was named in a damning report last month that found top prelates concealed sexual abuse of children over more than three decades. Murray "humbly" apologized for his role in the scandal but said that even his resignation "cannot undo the pain" of those who suffered. AP


SMART
Bro
Unlimited freedom with Plan 999
Introducing the most affordable SMART Bro Plug-it Unlimited plan.
Now you are free to surf all you want and go online anywhere in the country. Kaya mag-no.1 broadband na!
TOP PC VENDORS
www.smart.com.ph/smartbro
Reliability you can count on.



SPORTS

RP athletes slay ghost of Thailand debacle

Mamiit caps 38-gold haul in Vientiane



Wrestlers big surprise

Quarreling officials



SEA GAMES MEDAL TALLY

GAMES' LAST GOLD

Cecil treats RP tennis to another victory



Triumphs for the ages

Old problem: RP boxing team revamp looms

Whoppers hold off Bulls; q'final race tightens

By Cedelf P. Tupas

STRUGGLING TO FIND FLUIDITY in its game, Burger King leaned on its survival instinct. [illegible]



BARAKO Bull forward Chad Alonzo (right) refuses to give Burger King counterpart Richard Yee an easy path to the basket.

RP booters garner best Asian rank

By Cedelf P. Tupas

[illegible]

Patriots eye eighth win vs Dragons

By Jasmine W. Payo

[illegible]

Busy Mikee gives up Philcycling presidency

[illegible]



ROMERO



URBANATHLON WINNER. [illegible]

Annual Southwoods Chairman's Cup on

[illegible]

Waiting for a Christmas gift next year

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ser Sarmenta



[illegible]



OFF TO MALAYSIA. Goodyear Philippines will support a group of Filipino drivers competing in the Goodyear Formula Drift in Malaysia this weekend. [illegible]

SPORTSWATCH

'Rambulan' derby today

[illegible]

Tiger woes: Phelps hopes for best; bettors eye worst

[illegible]



PHELPS: A hard time

Stern: It's about the game's integrity

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

[illegible]



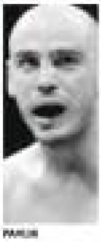
DWYANE Wade goes in transition during Miami's game against Orlando. Wade will be one of the top free agents after this season.

Wade waxes hot then cools off in Heat victory

[illegible]

'The Ghost': Winning not enough

[illegible]



PAVLIK

NFL receiver falls off truck after dispute, dies

[illegible]



RICHARD Gasquet can now resume his tennis career.

Sports court clears Gasquet of cocaine use

[illegible]

Sports



Van Der Valk ties Salvador on top

Que, 3 others stay in touch with 93rd RP Open leaders

By Musong R. Castillo

THE NETHERLANDS' Guido Van Der Valk

Third round scores



ANGELO Que

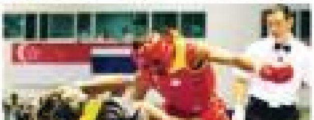
'We can't have fly-by-night pros at the Open'

By Musong R. Castillo

The art of losing—and winning big

Bare Eye

Recah Trinidad



Muay searching for taller fighters

Good enough, Angping says of 38 golds

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BUSINESS

Editor: Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Daxim L. Lucas

Gov't urged to avert spike in consumer prices

Import vital goods before supplies run out, agencies asked

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS URGING the government to promptly import rice and other vital products to prevent a spike in inflation.

GOV'T URGED B2

INDICATORS

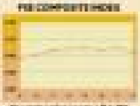
CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower



SHARES B3

In Nov., banks further lowered lending rates

IN NOV., B2

Manila Water clinches utility deal in Boracay

MANILA, B3

IN THIS ISSUE

Dutch pension fund buys 5% interest in RLC

Nihao eyes stake in mining firm

Investor confidence going up

SMC completes beer business spin-off

DISCLOSURES

FirstGen sets ₱15-B stock rights offering

Gov't bent on creating at least 1.5M jobs in 2010

Services sector to lead the way, according to Neda's Santos

DA's potential abdication of its anti-smuggling role

COMMENTARY

PNOC-EC remits ₱500M to gov't

India's InterGlobe to hire at least 1,000

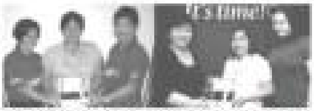
Gov't urged ...

Shares close ...

Manila Water ...

In Nov., banks ...

Christmas gift ideas from Uratex



SUN LIFE FINANCIAL'S "IT'S TIME!" PROMO WINNERS

Aboitiz Construction streamlines operation with SAP Business All-In One

QUEZON CITY SALUTES TOP TAXPAYERS



Bits & Clips

China Bank opens new branches



MDH, MAVERICK MEDIA SOLUTIONS INK CONTRACT

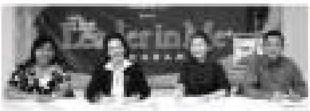
Clearance sale of the year at Greenhills

All-day haven for last minute Christmas shoppers



PHINMA PROPERTIES, EDO REMITTANCE AGREEMENT

FPPF offers new year photo courses



MYLAC XL PREP, FRANKLINCOVEY TEAM UP

Wandering Juan photo contest

Republic of the Philippines
Home Development Mutual Fund / Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE PUBLIC BIDDING OF SECURITY SERVICES

[illegible]

(Sgd.) [illegible]

ALBAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID

[illegible]

More Classifieds

PUBLIC SAFETY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

[illegible]

OPEN PROXY FORM

[illegible]

aecid

Scholarships offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain for summer of 2010 and academic year 2010/2011

A Scholarship Program open and available yearly to non-Spanish nationals and for Spanish citizens abroad.

Applications are done on-line through the website: www.aecid.es/becas

Applying on-line makes it easier and more accessible.

For FILIPINO nationals, the following are available:

- Medium/long term (one year, renewable for another year) to undertake postgraduate studies in Spain.
- Short term (one to three months) for Spanish language and culture courses, "Hispanistas" research from all over the world.

Requirements include preadmission to a Spanish University, proficiency in Spanish language, and the diploma required according to the Program applied for. Preference will be given to applications in fields of study related to the objectives of the Spanish Cooperation.

When to apply?

Applications for the scholarships are done through the website www.aecid.es/becas from December 2009 to January 2010. Deadline varies according to the Program.

For more information please contact the Spanish Cooperation Office: 848 [illegible] local 114 (Maria Amaia) or visit our website: www.aecid.es (Headquarters-Spain).

The Spanish Scholarship Program is an important instrument of the scientific and cultural cooperation of Spain with the rest of the world. This program is a significant element in Spain's foreign relations and contributes to the development of the country benefiting, as well as to the fight against poverty.

OBITUARIES

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

RODOLFO A. BERNAL
(DOMPENG)

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 17, 2009 at the age of 81.

His wife, Virginia; children Randy & Susan, Bessie & Jimmy, Divina; Nil & Nic Lim; Popoy & Jojo; Bil & Peter Tan; Tony & May; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at #85 Dr. Sixto Antonio Ave., Rosario, Pasig City.

Interment to be announced later.

BUSINESS

RP eyes eurobond issue in 2010

Gov't to diversify debt holdings



TAN

GMA 7 to raise ad rates

Local industry opposes proposed sugar importation

CORPORATE ROUNDUP

SM wins Asset Platinum Award

AUB offers Chinese Yuan

Convergys wins award

PROPERTY





Green gizmos enhance buildings in RP

AS NATIONS NEGOTIATE with each other and with Mother Earth at the climate change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, back here at home companies are jumping into the "green bandwagon" and have been demonstrating to the public innovative technologies that favor in the environment.

[illegible]

Manila trial

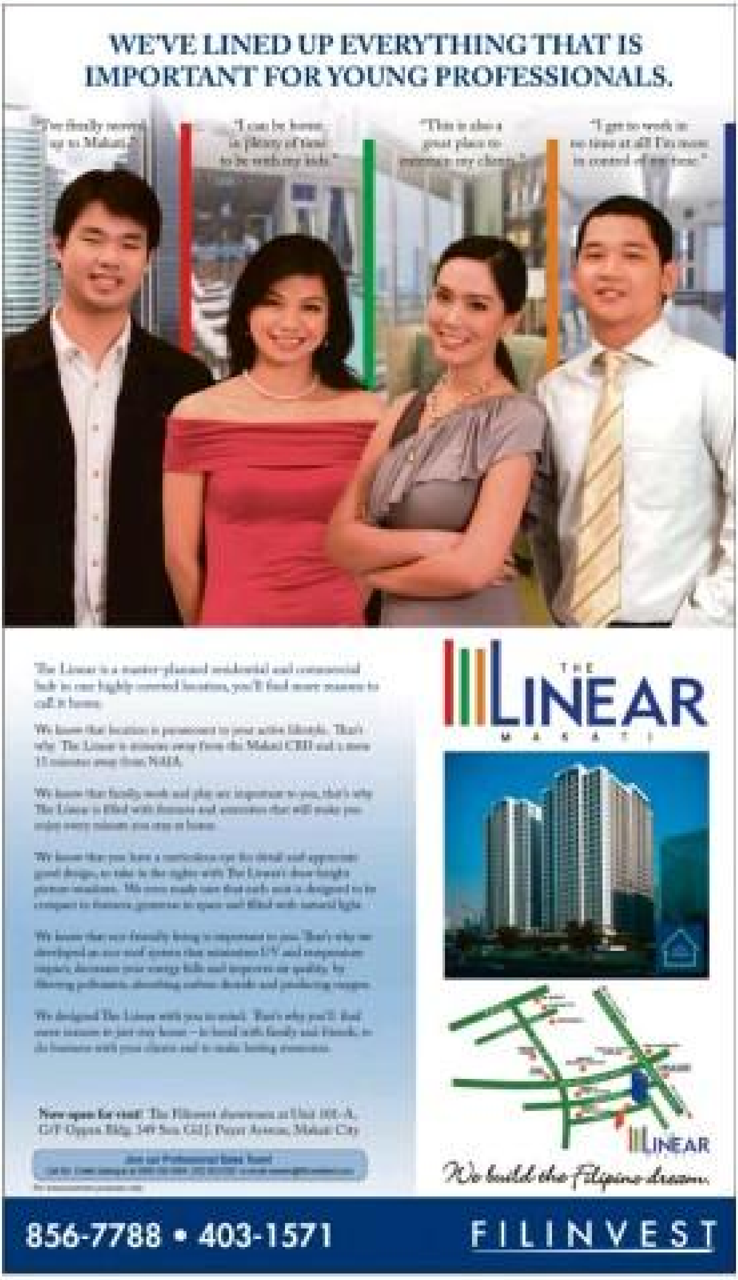
[illegible]

Recycled ice for air-con systems

[illegible]

A lot of potential

[illegible]



SCIENCE/HEALTH

'Heart, brain attacks occur most during the holidays'



By Tessa R. Salazar

YOU BETTER WATCH out. The country's highest incidence of heart attacks, strokes (brain attacks) and diabetes happens during Christmas and the New Year season. It's a gift the excesses of lifestyle bring, according to Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, former health secretary.

Observations make sense

A couple's sad memory of December

By Charles E. Buban

Playful

Death, inevitable

100% cure rate

Children, likely victims

Adding life to a few months of living

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, MD

Good news

Good alternative

Desired relief

The deadly aftermath: leptospirosis

Gov't, private sector aid

Singapore, Thailand top 2009 Asean Energy Awards





GREEN ARCHTRENDS



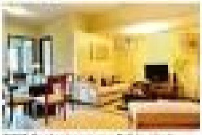
Xilinx Building, Singapore

Internal sky court

IBMS

DMCI Homes' value-for-money projects

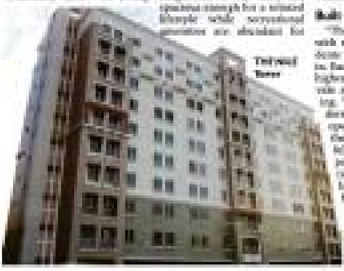




Satisfied residents

Easy move-in policy

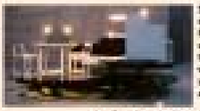
CDC Holdings unveils Nile Tower at Manila Rivercity Residences





Chua

Built with elegance



Of stables and mangers and odd places to sleep

DESIGN DIMENSIONS



In better situation

Drive-in, sleep-in hotel

PROPERTY





Reliving memories, family bonding



R

Super LifeStyle

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation



SUPER EXCLUSIVE



CHRISTMAS WITH LENKA

All her bells are ringing

Super kicks the holidays off with Czech-Australian singer-songwriter Lenka during this exclusive photo shoot and one-on-one interview

STORY ON PAGE C4


SM MALL OF ASIA
The Ultimate Christmas Destination
The Grand Festival of Lights Parade
A Royal Christmas with the Disney Princesses
Holiday Mall Hours

All her bells are ringing

By [illegible]
Photos by Jill Lejano

THERE'S ONE BIG REASON WE wouldn't mind spending Christmas with Lenka: She's no diva.

Christmas came early for Super this year, thanks to this incredibly cute Czech-Australian singer-songwriter.

When international artists fly in from abroad and you join the cattle of media people wanting to get some face time with the celebs for your readers, there are things you have to expect. One, there will be a lot of waiting. Two, you will be surrounded by the artist's entourage and they will be watching you like hawks ready to pounce. Three, you will be given a list of rules—no autographs, no photographs, no personal questions.

This was not the case with Lenka.

In fact, the only reminder we received from Sony Music before the shoot was that we didn't need to book a makeup artist because Lenka was going to do her own makeup.





Entourage-free

On the day of the shoot, we walked into Holiday Inn's Pub and discovered that Lenka was entourage-free, save for her very laidback tour manager.

Fashion designer and Super stylist Kate Torralba whisked Lenka off for her first outfit change and Lenka was camera-ready just ten minutes later. Kate said, "She's adorable, candid and so easy to work with! She is also very sure of what works for her and what doesn't, she really handpicked everything from the selection that I brought. She brought the KT for Paperdolls dress with her, she loves it and wants to wear it for her tour."

In front of the camera, Lenka is a genius. She needed zero direction. She knew how to pose, she knew how to play with the clothes and accessories, she knew all her angles. Could be her acting background—she did, after all, train with Cate Blanchett. Then again, maybe she's really just a natural. Photographer Jill Lejano said, "That was a breeze. Lenka is so easy to work with. She's a pro."

We had been given over an hour for the shoot but we didn't need it. Thirty minutes and three outfit changes later, we had more than enough photos to fill this entire Super issue.



Love for mangoes and jeepneys

After the shoot, Lenka sat with us to talk about her favorite Christmas memories, her first Manila experience, her love for mangoes, jeepneys and her fans.

By then, Lenka had changed into her own clothes and was wearing a necklace that a fan had given her the previous day. For this pop star, the thrill of fame isn't the opportunity to hog the spotlight, to get rich or get attention—it's the chance to touch other people's lives. "It's definitely uplifting and makes it all worthwhile," she said.

Post interview, Lenka stayed for a bit to sign CDs, pose for more pictures and accept some killer cupcakes. "Oh my god, these are naughty," she said.

She talked about her love for nail polish (she was wearing a crazy blue shade that day) and showed us burns on her fingers. "This is from a week ago now, it's a third-degree burn. I got it from cooking, split coconut on the side of a pot."

'Mahal kita'

She was leaving for Singapore the next morning and planned to spend her last evening in Manila in her hotel room where her keyboard was set up. She is working on a special song, one that includes various translations of the words "I love you," Lenka said, humming a little. "It goes, Mahal kita ... and then "I love you" in all these other languages ... It's a sweet song."

After her Asian tour, Lenka is headed back to Australia to spend Christmas with her friends and family. This is something she's been looking forward to—she hasn't been home for Christmas since she moved to Los Angeles for her music career.

Good for Lenka, we say. But we really wouldn't mind spending Christmas with her.

What do you love most about Christmas?

That you don't have to be embarrassed about being festive. You know, you're allowed to wear crazy colors and gold and silver and decorate everything and that makes life a lot more fun.

What's your favorite Christmas memory?

When I was about seven, I got the chicken pox on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day is when we open gifts in Australia. I got the Barbie kitchen. It's such a strong memory because I was so miserable and there was that contrast between being so miserable and then so happy to get the present. I don't think it was necessarily the best present I ever got but it was the most memorable because of that contrast.

Any favorite Christmas song?

My own one, I think. All My Bells Are Ringing. I guess it's similar to the vintage classics kind of Christmas song like All I Want for Christmas Is You. I wrote it last year. I got into the mood one day and I said, I think I'll write a Christmas song. I do love the song. I think it's really sweet. I love it but I only get to play it one month a year.

Do you have a favorite Christmas movie?

"Love, Actually."

Is there any special Christmas food that you like?

Well, in Australia it's summer so I associate Christmas with mangoes. I love mangoes. I've been eating a lot here in Manila. It's all about fresh fruits and salads and seafood in Australia.

What's the best Christmas gift you've received?

Hmm. I already said my Barbie kitchen story. Umm ... I'm not a very materialistic person. I don't remember stuff that much. But last year, my boyfriend and I got each other a holiday in Mexico. We went to Mexico for Christmas and that was our present to each other. It was pretty cool.

And would you say that's the best Christmas gift you've given as well?

Yes (laughs).

What's on your Christmas wish list this year, since you said you're not very materialistic?

It's not about stuff, it's about time with family and friends.

Which you don't have a lot of ...

No ... And so this year, I'm going to Australia for a month. I've gotta get there on the 24th. It's really about being together. You can exchange little trinkets but now that I'm an adult, it's not really about getting stuff. It's just about having time to, you know, hang out.

Has your Christmas changed since you moved to LA?

Yeah. Not last year but the year before, it was pretty boring, some friends and I just played Scrabble and made some food. It was fun but it wasn't family Christmas. I went to Czech Republic for Christmas a couple of years ago. It's a big deal there too. I've had two Christmases in Czech Republic with my family. It was cold and snowy and we had special Christmas cookies. It's very much the traditional Christmas that we in the hot countries don't really experience.

Do you have any special Christmas traditions in your family?

We give each other silly toys and then play with them on the day. When I was a kid, you'd get a toy you'd play with in the pool or a water pistol or a frisbee and spend the day playing with it.

How has this trip been for you so far? Was the Philippines what you expected?

Yes and no. There are a lot of things I didn't know about the Philippines that I learned while I was here. It was a very pleasant experience to get to know the Filipinos' character because everybody's polite and sweet and such a pleasure to be around.

Where have you gone and what have you done while you were here?

Mostly I've been in malls.

Yes, because of the shows. (laughs)

And I was jet-lagged so I've spent a lot of time in my hotel bed. I go to bed by 9 o'clock. I haven't been out for any nightlife stuff at all. I did go to Fort Santiago. The rest of it's pretty much just driving around. You've probably realized by now that I'm obsessed with jeepneys.

Yeah, I saw the picture on Twitter.

That's because we've been stuck in traffic going back and forth to all the malls. I found them interesting. That was fun for me. I have about 150 photos of jeepneys. (laughs)

What's in store for your fans? What's next?

Another album is the plan, next year hopefully, if all goes well, if the universe lets me do it the way I wanna do it.

Where will you be recording? I read somewhere that you loved recording in Montreal ... Will you be doing it there again?

I want to work with Pierre Marchand. I don't really care where, it's about who. And the people we're looking at right now are in London, Los Angeles, Seattle. It doesn't really matter, I'm happy to go there, wherever they are.

We asked our readers to send questions they wanted to ask you. Here are five of them. One, how do you deal with pressure?

I try to remember that nobody is perfect and that nobody expects me to be perfect and that somehow takes the pressure off. All you can do is do your best and try to give something special.

Two, which singer do you admire the most?

There are a lot but Björk is my favorite for her fearlessness and artistry.

Three, did you get your money back?

It's a rhetorical question. Because it's only a metaphor for life not giving you what you wanted. You can't ever get your money back. That would be like saying that you get a second chance in life and unfortunately, you don't. But that said, I think the question also suggests that you have the power to change your path if you don't feel like it's giving you what you want. If you're really asking life to give your money back, it's up to you to change the situations you don't like.

Four, someone wants to know if he can please sing "The Show" with you as a duet?

(laughs) Well, he can do that to my recorded voice anytime he wants. (laughs)

Last question from our readers, what's it like inspiring and motivating people with your songs?

It feels really good. Sometimes people e-mail me and tell me that they decided to go on a big adventure because of "Live Like You're Dying" or "The Show" helped them get over a bad breakup or something like that. It just feels really special and reminds me how powerful music can be.

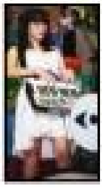
WHAT LENKA WORE: (top right) Printed faux trenchcoat, KT Kate Torralba; hot pink hair accessory by Found Objects for Kate Torralba. (above) Black jersey ballet-sleeve LBD, Kate Torralba for Paperdolls. (top left) Black cotton jersey dress with handmade brass and chain detail, KT Kate Torralba.

Stalking Lenka

For five days, Manila turned into Lenkaland. Here's what Lenka did while she was in town



LENKA performs at the SM Mall of Asia. She spent the previous weekend playing for her fans at SM Malls.





LENKALANDED: Lenka is interviewed soon after her arrival.



DINNER DATE: Two lucky Super readers, [illegible] and [illegible], won the chance to have dinner with Lenka. They introduced Lenka and her band to Filipino food and Lenka was serenaded with a "Jigglypuff" song and her requests—"Poker Face" by Lady Gaga and "Single Ladies" by Beyoncé.

2bU LifeStyle
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan · Contributing Editor Stefanie Cabal

Christmas goodies and treats

Straight from these college kids' ovens

By Joi Tordesillas
Contributor

IT'S THE CHRISTMAS SEASON again, the time of giving and yes, also eating. So if you've been looking for where to get those yummy cakes and pastries for the holidays, look no further. Here are some tasty treats straight from the ovens of young entrepreneurs. Oh, and they're affordable too.

The Sweet Life by Ange

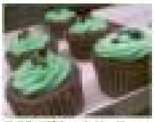
Whipped up by: Ange de la Cruz, 19, Fashion Institute for Design and Merchandising (2nd year)

Goodies: [illegible]

Price range: [illegible]

Special Christmas treat: [illegible]

[illegible]



CUPCAKES from Baking Blues

[illegible]

Baking Blues

Whipped up by: [illegible], 22, University of Asia and the Pacific (4th year)



CREATIVE cookies from The Sweet Life

Goodies: Apple Cinnamon Cookies, Banana Oatmeal Cookies, White Chocolate Chip Cookies, Chocolate Crinkles, [illegible] Cookies, Oatmeal Cookies, [illegible], Banana Cream Pie, Bars, Brownies, Vanilla and Choco-

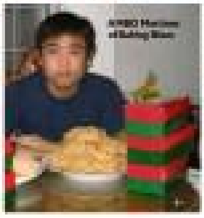
CHRISTMAS B4

inside

Christmas goodies and treats











Sweets for My Sweets

Bing's Baked Goodies

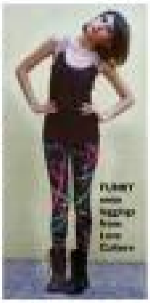
Great picks –and they're all online



For the fashion plate

From shredded jeans to pouf dresses—avoid the holiday hassle

For the boys



Fail-safe presents for the 'Kris Kringle'

Or, how to make sure your bald officemate won't get a tub of gel

Expiration date

Great picks...



For the eco-warrior



Tinsel Town

Jasmine Curtis-Smith plays dress-up to show us how to sparkle and shine this holiday season



Polished rock



Stand proud



In the spotlight



Starring role



It's a wrap

Trail blazer

They go their own way in the style department



Krishna Mae Salo, 17

Meg Bagadion, 20, UP Diliman

"My style is very laid back. My style icon is Zooey Deschanel."

Pia Ocampo, 19, Miriam College

Coco Macaven, 15

Christmas shopping made easy



DIY

Gift-wrapping made easy and fun

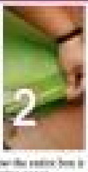
'Jazz up Christmas presents with trendy wrappers and ribbons'



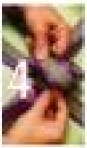
Materials (available at Wrap Shop):

How:













Jolo Valdez: Living the life







Lovable boutique

A haven for unique underground youth-driven brands







Creative collaboration

Neon fashion on a comeback



How to make your Christmas merrier

Bright ideas to make your Christmas a little brighter

Culinary students showcase *Noche Buena* ideas

STUDENTS FROM CENTER for Culinary Arts (CCA) and Global City Innovative College (GCIC) took part in the cooking showdown, "A Feast for Christmas," at the SMX Hall last Dec. 13.





OVERALL champion CCA



Chef Judith Raine Marcelo Bayron, 37, GCIC

Chef Norman Billy B. Ramos, 21, Global City Innovative College

Anna Marie Espiritu, 26, Global City Innovative College

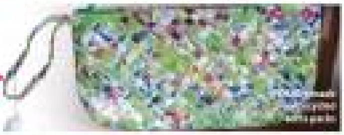
Anthony Jose A. Gabriel, 30, Center for Culinary Arts

2bU LifeStyle





'Tis the season to save doypacks



A young environmental group tries to minimize Christmas trash



Ina Feleo to the late Johnny Delgado:

'Run free, daddy'



I remember Dad was sitting in his favorite chair on Christmas Eve, and with a gesture of his hand, he summoned us closer to him. He hugged all three of us at once. For the first time, I saw him cry.



'Tis the season to save doypacks



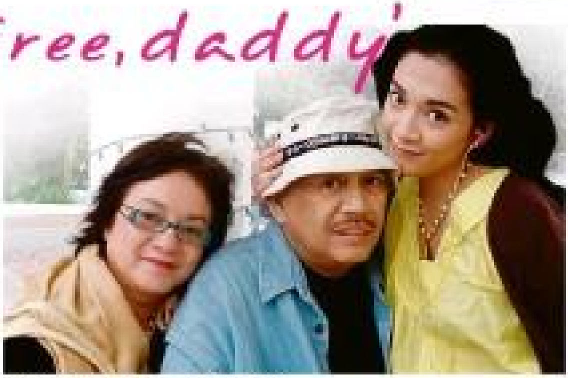


STUDENT volunteers help in collecting doypacks.



'Run free, daddy'

By Irina Feleo



TAGAYTAY family trip in 2009 with mom Laurice Guillen and dad

Last Christmas

Missing daddy

Hunt for 'Clues' is fiendishly addictive

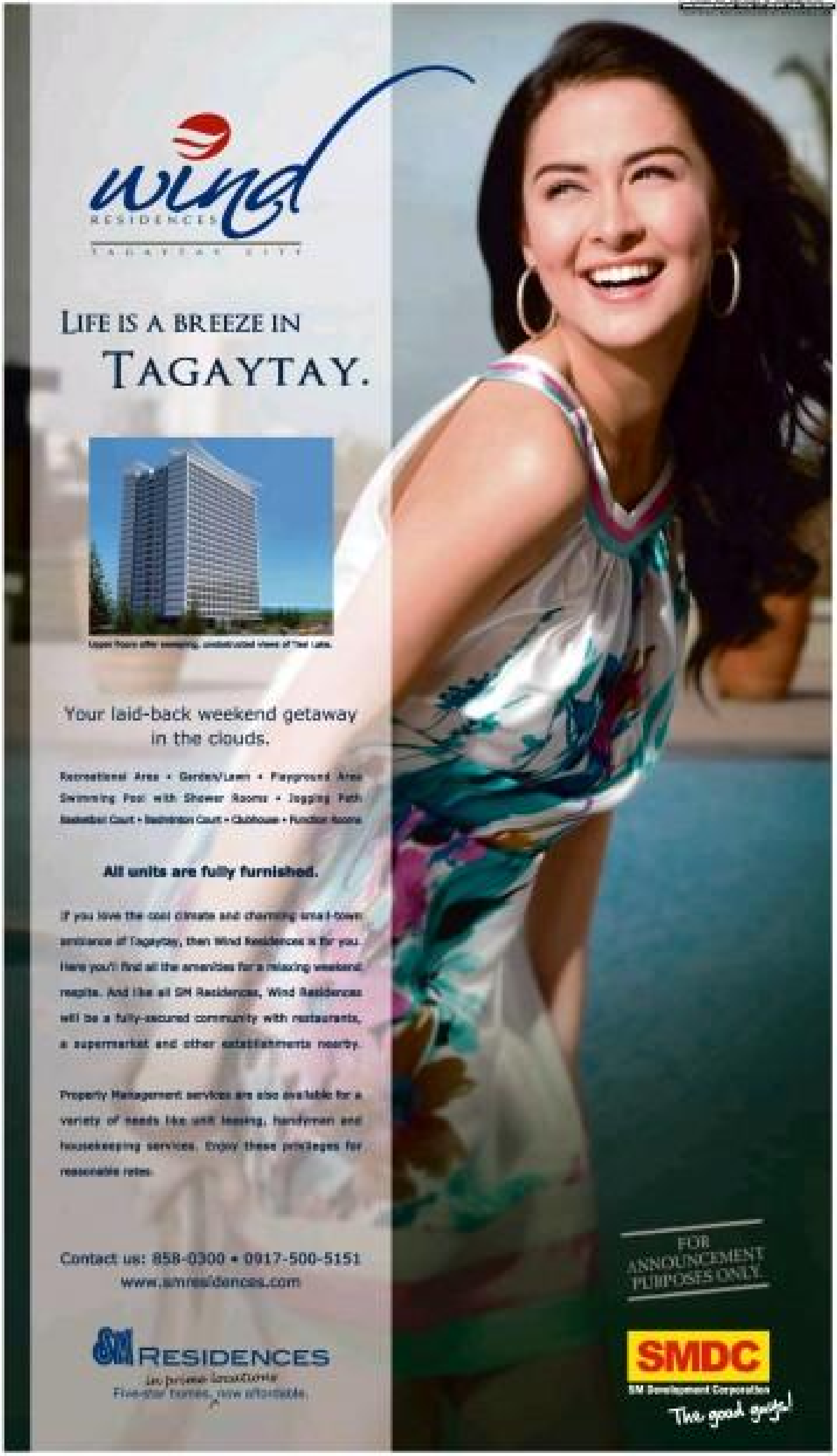
Scholastic's ten-book series surprises the reader with more action and mystery

By Ruel S. de Vera



Innovative

Action-packed



wind
RESIDENCES
TAGAYTAY CITY
LIFE IS A BREEZE IN
TAGAYTAY.
Your laid-back weekend getaway
in the clouds.
Recreational Area • Garden/Lawn • Playground Area
Swimming Pool with Shower Rooms • Jogging Path
Basketball Court • Badminton Court • Clubhouse • Function Rooms
All units are fully furnished.
If you love the cool climate and charming small-town ambiance of Tagaytay, then Wind Residences is for you. Here you'll find all the amenities for a relaxing weekend respite. And like all SM Residences, Wind Residences will be a fully-secured community with restaurants, a supermarket and other establishments nearby.
Property Management services are also available for a variety of needs like unit leasing, handyman and housekeeping services. Enjoy these privileges for reasonable rates.
Contact us: 858-0300 • 0917-500-5151
www.smresidences.com
SM RESIDENCES
Five-star homes, now affordable.
FOR
ANNOUNCEMENT
PURPOSES ONLY.
SMDC
SM Development Corporation
The good guys!



Marvel Comics Iron Man gray graphic shirt, Hollo Plaid shirt, Hollo board shorts

Gearing up for some Holiday fun? Make ready with printed shorts, a checkered polo, and a fun graphic tee to channel the sublime utilitarianism of the outdoors.



Mr. Nonsense graphic tee by Mr. Men, Plaid polo by Hollo, and skinny jeans by Bills.

Graphic Content

SM Department Store debuts its Holiday must-haves: cool graphic tees by "Mr. Men" and "Marvel Comics," sold exclusively at the Boys Teens' Wear Department

Pair your graphic tee with a plaid polo and skinny jeans, reminiscent of the British Underground.

The classic 'boy-next-door' look is always a favorite. Layer up your favorite vintage comic book tee with a printed hoodie.



Incredible Hulk comic book tee by Marvel, printed white hoodie by Hollo, and skinny jeans by Bills.



Generate that effortless street style look with a bright yellow tee and your favorite plaid long sleeves.

Mr. Noisy graphic tee by Mr. Men, plaid longsleeves by Hollo, and skinny jeans by STS.

The more the merrier! Grab these cool designs at the SM Boys Teens' Wear Department.



Mr. Nonsense: Mr. Nonsense graphic tee by Mr. Men

Anger Management: Incredible Hulk graphic tee by Marvel Comics

Hellfire and Brimstone: Nightcrawler graphic tee by Marvel Comics

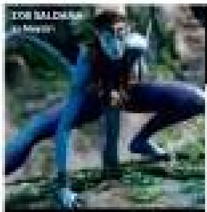
Funny Bone: Mr. Funny graphic tee by Mr. Men

Relax, Don't Dent: Mr. Bump graphic tee by Mr. Men

Red, White and Blue: Captain America comic tee by Marvel Comics

Super LifeStyle

Epic Reincarnation



'Avatar,' James Cameron's stunning first film after 'Titanic,' is more than worth the 12 years of waiting. There is simply nothing else like this miraculous sci-fi romp

By Ruel S. De Vera

NOTHING WILL PREPARE you for the giant makahiya. Early on in James Cameron's new film "Avatar," the 10-foot-tall alien-with-a-human-brain Jake Sully (played superbly by "Terminator Salvation's" Sam Worthington) is walking through the otherworldly jungle when he starts touching these huge spiral flowers which—upon the slightest contact—swirls closed just like the makahiya (mimosa pudica). And it looks damn real.

[illegible]

EPIC/A4

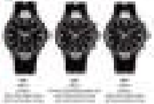


DIRECTOR James Cameron with Sam Worthington on the set of "Avatar"



TechnoMarine



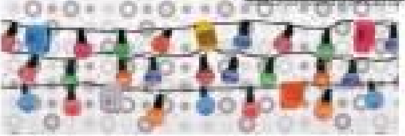






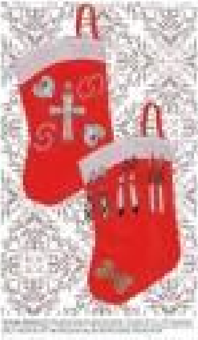






NOOKA







MyDIAMOND





Epic Reincarnation







Super LifeStyle



12 SUPER GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS

Super did the legwork for you. Here are presents your loved ones wouldn't want to recycle



By [illegible]

PLEASE, FOR THE LOVE OF god and all things good, forget fruitcake.

If, like me, you are still rushing to complete your Christmas shopping, we are giving you reason to rejoice this Saturday. Super did the legwork for you. We searched all over the city and yes, the Internet, for great gifts and fantastic finds.

Here are some presents your loved ones wouldn't want to recycle. We bet you'd love to find these wrapped under your tree too.

[illegible]

INDULGE IN A MULTI-SENSORIAL HAIR TREATMENT WITH PUREOLOGY IN STUDIO FIX BY ALEX CARBONELL

[illegible]



[illegible]





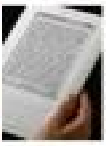




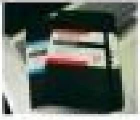


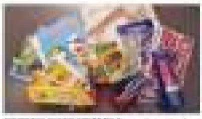
12 SUPER GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS













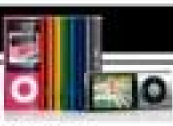








Gadgets as gifts—what to remember



Be a thoughtful giver—include batteries

The review grapevine

Shop around

Early-adopters, beware

Gift cards welcome

Batteries included (by you)

Keep the receipt

Great tech gifts for people you love

The Boyfriend



The Brother



The Fit Freak



The Road Warrior

The Green Advocate



Sneakers, sneakers everywhere



Sneakheads get their fill



Making up their minds can be hard when everything is irresistible



Shoppers hunting for the best finds



Sneakers in all shapes, colors and sizes

Sneaker Nation at TriNoma

By Ruby de Vera

WITH the ending of the UAAP season, TriNoma held the Sneaker Nation Sale, the first sale of its kind where only sneakers are on sale mallwide, in 47 participating establishments. Sneaker Nation is meant to celebrate the basketball fever that gripped all students and alumni alike for a few glorious months. The camaraderie spirit of collegiate basketball games will always remind us how proud we are of our alma maters.

Sneakers and rubber shoes will always represent a carefree and dynamic lifestyle. Those who wear it convey an active and casual approach to life with no rules and a lot of self-expression.

Offering a new sale experience, the Sneaker Nation Sale at TriNoma from September 25 to 27 invited a lot of curious shoppers. For three days participating outlets slashed off their prices for sneakerheads everywhere, especially high school and college students who are probably the biggest users of sneakers and rubber shoes due to their active lifestyles.

Being students means being on an allowance, and no student could have resisted the generous discounts the shops offered for their merchandise. All kinds of designs, styles, and colors in a variety of price range were available during the sale, so everyone got something that fit their taste. Sneakers and rubber shoes from participating outlets were discounted off their regular price tags for three days, to the delight of people who wanted some for themselves, or those who did their early Christmas shopping. After all, who could resist a good discount?

Participating stores for the Sneaker Nation Sale are 161 New York, 158 Designer's Blvd., Adidas, Adidas Originals, Aldo, Alcorta Sports, Ana, Artwork, Bodyshire Hub, Bata, Bench, Bench Catwalk, Charles & Keith, Converse, DC, Ecko Unltd, Fila, Florsheim, Hush Puppies, Kenneth Cole, Khaki Adventure, Lacoste Footwear, Levi's, Mendrez, Merrell, Nike Park, Nike Women, Olympic World, Pedro, Planet Sports, Puma, Red Toe Run, Rockport, Rogue, Rusty Lopez, Sebago, Shoe Salon, Skechers, Sledgers, Sportshouse, Springfield, Toby's, Vans, Von Dutch, World, and Zoo York.

Funkified!

By Ruby de Vera

TO CAP off the Sneaker Nation Sale, TriNoma held the Funkified! event at the TriNoma Activity Center on October 31. Hosted by Jam 88.3 DJ Lambert and DJ Mike, the event opened with the Tis Crew, Philippine representatives to the 2009 World Hiphop Championships, to get the beat going.

After that the main event of the program, the Funkified! On-the-spot Sneaker Design contest started and they were given three hours to finish their entries. The 12 participants in the sneaker design contest are students from different universities in the metro, and each designed a shoe provided by Ecko Unltd, Olympic World, Planet Sports, RedToeRun, Rogue, and Zoo York. There were also games for everyone.

The UP Pep Squad also gave a rousing performance with their high kicks and their pyramids, demonstrating why they're champions for several consecutive years in the UAAP Cheerdance Competition. The FEU Pep Squad, this year's champion, also performed an amazing routine.

Invited PBA players were also present for a shootout exhibition and to meet and greet their fans. Rico Maierhofer of Purefoods, Ogie Menor and Yousif Aljamal of Barako Bull, JC Intal and Doug Kramer of Ginebra, Dondon Hontiveros and Jonas Villanueva of San Miguel, Gabe Norwood and Solomon Mercado of Rain or Shine, Mike Burtscher and Kelvin Dela Pena of Alaska, and Coca Cola's Wesley Gonzales were there to shoot some hoops.

After the three hours were up the winners of the Funkified were finally announced. The first prize went to Luigi Angelo Apolinar from Adamson University. In second place was Katrina Zharlene Vargas of the University of the Philippines, and Carlos Miguel Pineda bagged the third place, also from UP.

The exciting event was concluded with a performance of the UP Street Dancers as a last treat to everyone who participated and attended this year's Funkified.

Get the latest on the TriNoma experience by logging on to http://www.trinoma-experience.com.



FIRST prize entry by Luigi Angelo Apolinar



SECOND place by Zharlene Vargas



THIRD place by Carlos Miguel Pineda



THE FUNKY SQUAD. Participants show off their creative kicks



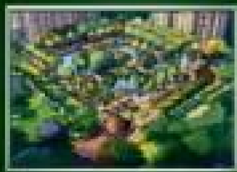
CREATIVE SOULS. The participants work on turning sneakers into delightful works of art



THE CREW's adrenaline-pumping opening performance.



Rockwell Breaks Ortigas' State of Mind



THE GROVE by Rockwell

THE GROVE BY ROCKWELL OPENS ITS MODEL UNIT IN ORTIGAS



Super LifeStyle



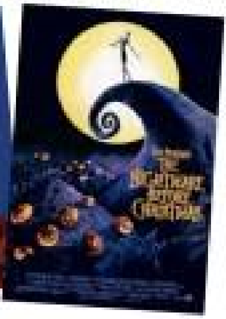
Holiday flicks to get you in the mood

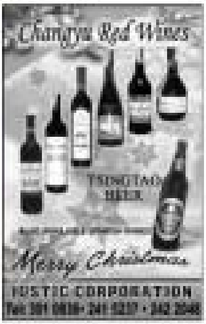
By Nina Mari M. Sabin and Jonathan Lanong

[illegible]









While You Were Sleeping

[illegible]

The Holiday

[illegible]

The Polar Express

[illegible]

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

[illegible]

Charlie Brown Christmas

[illegible]

Love Actually

[illegible]

Muppet Christmas Carol

[illegible]

Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas

[illegible]

Black Christmas

[illegible]

HOLIDAY / H4



Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

[illegible]

Enjoy home for the holidays with Ascott International

[illegible]



Each property features warm and cozy bedrooms, fully-equipped kitchen and living [illegible] provide the ideal home for families and holidaymakers this yuletide season.

The Boracay Mandarin's holiday feasts

[illegible]



Amazing holiday food deals at the InterCon

[illegible]

Club Balai Isabel is now a double-A resort; to launch a hotel before year ends

[illegible]

Flavorful holiday festivities at Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa

[illegible]

Celebrate Ensemble! Welcome 2010 at the heart of Manila

[illegible]

The season's festivities at the Richmonde Grill

[illegible]

Buon Natale at G! Celebrate the holiday in style

[illegible]

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Your food, your taste, your way in the new Tong Yang at SM-Megamall Atrium

[illegible]

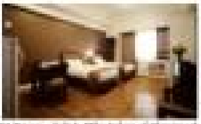
Gordion Hotel Vigan: A place like no other

[illegible]

Edsa Shangri-La, Manila's sumptuous holiday offerings

[illegible]

Quantum's Makati hotels celebrate 'The Colors of Christmas'



[illegible]

Experiencing holidays Bellevue-style!

[illegible]

Microtel recognized for 8th time as highest in overall guest satisfaction

[illegible]



A magical Christmas at the Manila Pavilion Hotel

[illegible]





24/7 SUPER RADAR

Season's trippings

By Jestoni Cuenca Dorin and Glorizarie Espinosa

EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF the season by checking out the following events and promos.



Hot, hot holiday

Bring on higher temperatures. [illegible] presents **The Greenhouse Effect**, a musical spot where one can experience nothing but hot tracks. **Tonight (Dec. 19)**, club denizens can pay tribute to Mother Earth through a sensory experience of sound and video. The event features top DJs [illegible]. Held at **[illegible], The Fort Strip, Taguig City**, the party starts at 10 p.m. The guest list system applies so call [illegible] to make reservations.

All heart

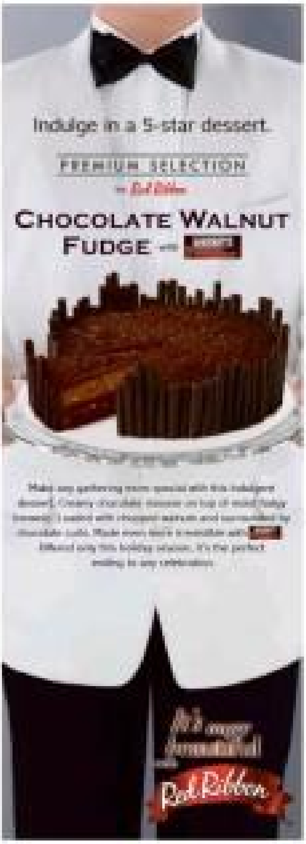
Celebrate the season with a healthy heart—figuratively and literally. **Tomorrow (Sunday (Dec. 20)**, sports buffs and those who simply want to feel good can join the **Christmas Celebrity Run 2009** at the **Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig**. The event is for the benefit of Ayala Foundation's Gearing Up for Internet Literacy and Access for Students, a program that aims to provide internet access to all public secondary schools in the country. Log on to www.[illegible].com for more details.

Rain dance

Dance for joy because of fabulous Christmas promos. Give your family and friends gifts that they will love. Choose a free gift of [illegible] colorful rain [illegible] or kids rain boots with every purchase worth P1,500 from **[illegible]** and their retail partners. The promo runs **until Jan. 3, 2010** subject to availability of sizes and stocks. Visit www.[illegible].com for more information.

Information is subject to change without prior notice. For more information on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Weekend Magazine at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. You may also text 24/7 [illegible] to [illegible] for Globe, Smart [illegible] and [illegible] for Sun. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to [illegible]@mag24-7.com and mag24-7@gmail.com for inclusion in this column.





Holiday flicks...

From page [illegible]

[illegible]

Home Alone 1 and 2

[illegible]

Robot Chicken Christmas Special

[illegible]

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Saturday Special



NOW SHOWING

Cameron's latest sci-fi adventure is a spellbinding cinematic marvel

By Rito P. Asilo

"Avatar"

D: James Cameron

A: Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver and Stephen Lang

THE WORD "IMPOSSIBLE" DOESN'T seem to exist in James Cameron's vocabulary. Twelve years after he declared himself "king of the world" via "Titanic," he justifies his sense of entitlement by delivering a mind-blowing cinematic marvel that will have viewers gasping and groping for the most florid adjectives to describe the director's latest production. Once again, Cameron delivers on his promise—and how.

In fact, "Avatar" is better seen (and, yes, in 3D) than described—an immersive viewing experience that takes advantage of Cameron's boundless imagination and technological savvy. And, we're not just talking high-tech innovation here. In two hours and 40 minutes, Cameron's allegorical tale conjures up a magical parallel universe that is threatened by man's arrogance and lust for power, his utter disregard for the environment, and his inability to listen to reason.



"AVATAR." Boundless imagination and technological savvy.

"Avatar" happens in the not-so-distant future when, because of man's excesses, Earth is no longer ecologically viable—so, man is in constant search of other worlds to conquer, explore and exploit.

Majestic flora and fauna

Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), a paraplegic former Marine, gets his chance to walk again when he is recruited into the government's "Avatar" program, headed by Dr. Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver), on the planet, Pandora—a lush, jungle-covered extraterrestrial moon filled with majestic flora and fauna, and inhabited by the blue-skinned, 10-foot-tall Na'vi people, a sentient humanoid race that lives in harmony with its unspoiled world.

To breathe the air on this planet, Jake

CAMERON (continued)







Focus on Christ this Christmas





Clooney's 'Up in the Air' flies high



Cameron's latest sci-fi adventure ...

Jackson's death, Boyle's song transfix viewers in 2009





FAWCETT: Succumbed to cancer.



Documentary

When entertainers misbehave on TV



MADONNA (ABOVE): Shared kisses with Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera.



JACKSON AND TIMBERLAKE: Wardrobe malfunction.

Artistic freedom

Lapse in good taste

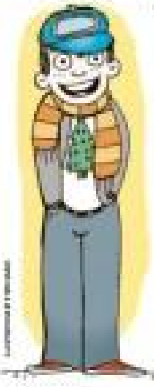

SMART
Buddy
Introducing, the First and Only
Unlimited BlackBerry Prepaid Plans!
P50/ Day
Text BB DAY to 2207
P300/ 7 Days
Text BB WEEK to 2207
UNLIMITED Push Email
UNLIMITED Messaging (BlackBerry® Messenger, Yahoo, Google, MSN)
UNLIMITED Social Networking (Facebook and Flickr)
UNLIMITED Internet Browsing
No more per kb data charging • No more surprises on huge monthly bills
YES
211
www.smart.com.ph/buddy
Reliability you can count on.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ **New film prospects** excite viewers/S2

SATURDAY Special

YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

The year they 'canceled' Christmas in Bethlehem





By Nestor U. Torre

EVER SINCE HE could remember, Joel always loved Christmas. Not just Christmas Eve and the gloriously lazy, cozy day that followed, but the entire Yuletide season as a whole! Yes, Joel Ramon was one of those Filipinos who marked the onset of the Christmas season as early as with the coming of the "ber" months.

[illegible]

Tradition

[illegible]

Resentment

[illegible]

Highlight

[illegible]

Souvenirs

[illegible]



IMAX



Stop-motion animation delightfully reinvents classic children's tale

Contrast

Conflict

Perfect gifts for the holidays

WORD OF MOUTH



Sandy Daza

Unique

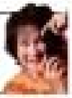
Pet lucks

Talent, skill enabled veteran

Inspiring tale of faith, love and hope

STREET SMART

Moody Navarro





Talent, skill enabled veteran actors to reinvent themselves



Confident swagger

Comedienne

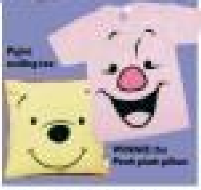
Christmas Wonderland

When someone steps in SM Department Store's Children's Accessories and Character Shop Departments, you are like walking in a Christmas wonderland. Choose among these amazing gift items where both kids and those kid's at heart would love.



Tigger graphic tee

A journey to the Hundred Acre Woods



Piglet graphic tee

Winnie the Pooh plush pillow

CHARACTER SHOP

Disney Princess, Spongebob, Barbie, Winnie the Pooh, and Batman- These are just some of your favorite characters you will see in SM's Character Shop. Have fun exploring with your kids!

Going looney over Bugs Bunny



Taz table clock



Bugs Bunny table clock

Ever so stylish Barbie



Barbie pink graphic blouse



Barbie yellow graphic tee

BARBIE bags and kiddie makeup



Unleash the hero



Batman graphic mug with graphic coin container

Superman graphic tees

Ben 10 Alien Force



Ben 10 red graphic tee

Ben 10 graphic backpack

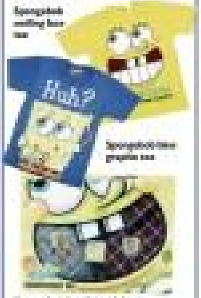
For your little Princess



Disney Princess Belle shirt

Disney Princess Aurora of Sleeping Beauty shirt

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?



Spongebob smiling face tee

Spongebob blue graphic tee

Spongebob handkerchief set



HELLO KITTY stuffed toys



Mickey, Minnie and Goofy stuffed toys



SPONGEBOB stuffed toys

CHILDREN'S ACCESSORIES

Kawaii, meaning "cute" in Japanese, would probably best describe these trinkets and keep sakes.



Monkey plush toy backpack



Hair accessories



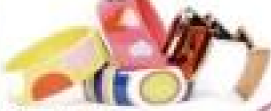
Assorted plush toys



Little princess set



I'm a princess mugs



Girls' assorted bangles



Blueberry and Whoopi watches



Butterfly shades



Picture frame, cabinet and jewelry boxes



Cellphone holder



Boys' colored bracelets

SATURDAY Special





GONZALES: Memorable homecoming.

RAMOS: Christmas with mom, New Year with dad.

DANTES: Finds more satisfaction in giving gifts than receiving them.

FARR: The Yuletide season is for everyone—including dogs.

ALONZO: Thankful for the blessings this year.

FORUM

Tinseltown's brightest stars spread Christmas cheer

By Rito P. Asilo

Boy wonder

CINEMA ACCESS: 595-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 AVATAR
6 AVATAR (DIGITAL 3D)
7 BAD LIEUTENANT
8 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
9 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
10 NINJA ASSASSIN

MANILA

1 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
6 NINJA ASSASSIN
7 AVATAR

METRO EAST

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
7 AVATAR
8 NINJA ASSASSIN

NOVALICHES

1 AVATAR
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 AVATAR

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS



NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema 6

MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

LIPA

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 NINJA ASSASSIN
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

DASMARIÑAS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR

STARMILLS

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
5 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

IMUS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

ANGELES

1 AVATAR
2 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS / TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 NINJA ASSASSIN
4 AVATAR

TACLOBAN

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR

DUMAGUETE

1 AVATAR
2 NINJA ASSASSIN

BACOLOD

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
5 NINJA ASSASSIN / INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

ILOILO

1 AVATAR
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

GENSAN

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

ILOCOS NORTE (NOW OPEN!)

1 AVATAR
2 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
3 A CHRISTMAS CAROL

NOW OPEN!

3 STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

MOVIEWORLD ILOCOS NORTE

- World Class Cinemas
- Dolby Digital Sound
- High Picture Quality
- Best Cinema Equipment
- Fantastic Seats
- Great Snacks





ROBERTS: Returns to romantic comedy in "Valentine's Day."



DOWNEY: Topbills "Sherlock Holmes" and "Due Date."



JOLIE: Portrays a spy in "Salt."

New film prospects excite viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

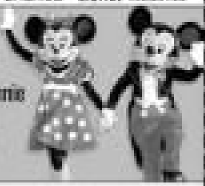
TOPPING THE LIST OF MOVIES film buffs are looking forward to seeing are "Avatar" and "Sherlock Holmes."

Insights

Stellar cast

Tinseltown's brightest stars ...

Rare reviews





2 Pinoys in LA: 1 does a 'Streep Tease,' the other directs a student film

From page K1

of speaking in different accents is also recognized by Dave Droege, who wrote the actual memorable monologue involving a dingo in the Australian Outback in "Cry in the Dark." Like Meryl, Steve had to learn an Aussie accent.

Mike Pesa, with the help of other actors in the cast, comically takes us on that thrilling whitewater rafting trip in "The River Wild." Other cast members and their respective Streep movies are John Fleck ("Angels in America"), Taylor Negron ("Sophie's Choice") and Terry Walker ("Silkwood").

Captivating

Ray, who said that he had seen "Doubt" a "million times," recalled the first time he watched La Streep: "I saw her first on TV in the miniseries, 'Holocaust.' I thought she was so beautiful. The first movie I saw her in was 'Still of the Night,' with Roy Scheider, in which she played a tormented woman who works in an art auction house. The way she smoked and moved was simply captivating. I even saw that movie at the defunct Manila International Film Festival, so it was a glamorous experience for me."

Born and raised in Quezon City, Ray studied at Claret School, UST, UP and the Complutense University of Madrid. He moved to LA in 1995. As a standup comic, he performs in LA, Lake Tahoe and Reno. He wrote a short film that was screened at the Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. We told Ray that a scene in Meryl's new romantic comedy, "It's Complicated," in which she and Steve Martin attend a party while high (from weed), is definitely a material to add to "Streep Tease."

Ray said that he has not seen his "inspiration" in person. We asked him, what if Meryl walks into the theater and watches "Streep Tease"? He answered, "If Meryl shows up, we'll cancel the show. But, seriously, I will be mortified and probably pee in my pants. But, the show will go on because it's a tribute to her."

"Streep Tease" (www.streeptease.com) returns to the Long Comedy Theater on Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27.

* * *

A UP alumna, Lex W. Olivar, unveiled a short film she directed, "Ham in Em Bacon," as part of her MFA studies at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. The former writer for magazines and TV shows in the Philippines was excited to share her film, because the school awards only three short film projects each semester.

Lex described the short, a comedy which she worked on with her classmates, as "about a man, a woman, a gorilla, and a fried pork product. Claire and Charlie Marsden (Amanda Pays and Paul McKinney) are a typical married couple living a typical life in their typical suburban home. But, when Claire demands that Charlie confront his fear of change, unforeseen events throw their lives into a world where 'typical' is not an option."

The Angeles City native definitely shows promise as a director. In her film shown at USC's Norris Theater, she exhibits a flair for comedy and attention to detail. She drew engaging performances from her cast, especially Amanda. The packed audience of faculty members, students, family and friends heartily applauded "Bacon" and the other two films, "In Captivity" and "Blasts."

"I was so nervous while watching the movie," Lex told us later. "It was surreal! It felt like I was watching myself watching the movie. I was taking note of the audience's reaction."

Recalling the moment when she had to address the audience, Lex, who also worked for Star Cinema, shared, "I thought about what I'd say earlier, but nothing can really prepare you for that moment. This was my first big directorial project screened in a big theater. It was quite overwhelming to be received in that way. I am a provinciana from Angeles City so most of the time, I still get starstruck by everything I encounter here."

She added: "My mind was racing, because I wanted to thank everyone who helped us make the movie, and everyone who helped me get into USC. I had to raise funds, literally go door to door at the Philippine Senate, write to people, celebs, Oprah Winfrey even Bill Gates, just to raise funds to make it here. Sharon Cuneta gave me $500. She was great! I know for sure that on top of my list to thank are God, my family in the Philippines, and the 'family' I created in the US. It was also important for me that people know that I was a Filipino. My dream is to not be a Hollywood director who happens to be Filipino, but to be a Filipino director who works in Hollywood."

We cheered when Lex paid tribute to her Philippine roots in her remarks that evening.

Absurd comedy

"Directing 'Bacon' was a blast!" she exclaimed. "I was blessed with such a great team. I learned so much from the experience. When I started at USC, I knew I wanted to be a director, but I wasn't sure if I could do it. I was worried that it was just this capricious dream I had, and that it was not really something I could do.

"But, by the time I got 'Bacon' on my sixth semester of grad school, I knew that not only did I want to direct, but also that I could do it," she continued. "The challenge for me was learning to direct an absurd comedy, since I didn't think that was my forte. While I liked how solid the story was, I wasn't certain how I was going to pull off a story as strange as that. To this day, I'm still amazed that there's a gorilla in the movie. I was terrified, but of course, I couldn't show that to my team."

Summer program

Lex shared that even at age 6, she wrote and directed play skits featuring her neighbors and classmates. After doing various jobs in Manila, she took a summer program in directing at USC. She realized that she had found her calling. When she returned to Manila, she worked as a Creative Development Group member for Star Cinema. After a year, she moved to LA and enrolled full-time to obtain a Master's degree in Film and TV production at USC.

Looking ahead, Lex said, "After finishing my thesis, my project is to stay here and work in Hollywood. The road to that I'm still uncertain of, but I am taking it one step at a time. I have faith. I believe that God wouldn't have allowed me to get here if He didn't have a bigger purpose for me. I believe it will all work out—it always does!"

E-mail: [illegible] and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on [illegible].



CRUZ (RIGHT, STANDING, WITH THE CAST OF HIS THEATER SHOW). Pays tribute to Hollywood's greatest actress.

2 Pinoys in LA: 1 does a 'Streep Tease,' the other directs a student film

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Impersonation





SATURDAY Special



Unique gifts for stars who have everything





ABAYA: Her first book, "Moonlit Seasons," is a literary delight.

By [illegible]

WHAT CAN YOU give your favorite celebrities this Christmas? Stars can get most anything they want, so what presents would surprise and please them? Perhaps, not bling-bling of the most expensive sort (what a relief), but remembrances more from the heart, for that psyche-stroking, tingly warm feeling that money can't buy.

What, for example, can we give child star of the year, [illegible] [illegible]



AUNOR: A triumphant comeback for the Superstar.



SANTOS: Ready to take the big [illegible] leap.

[illegible] but when it hits a child star, it can even corrode his psyche.

Reversals

What could the universe give the local film world's original Superstar, Nora Aunor? The big, popular and artistic triumph of a comeback that her amazing talent richly deserves. Despite her many reversals, some of them self-inflicted, Nora is still one of our finest performers, and what a tragedy it is for us that we have much too blithely relegated her to the dustbin of cinematic history.

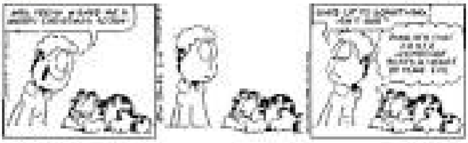
Aga Muhlach? [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 2-4



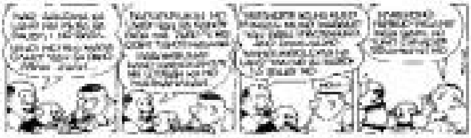
GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN — By Jess Abrera



PUGAD BABOY — By Pol Medina Jr.



DICK TRACY



LOVELORN — By Elizabeth Chionglo



JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY — By Steven Pabalinas



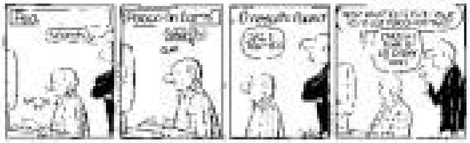
BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



TULOOK — By Maria Cosi



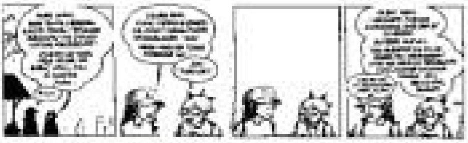
BEN — By Daniel Shelton



ATOMO AND WEBOY — By Lisa Garcellano

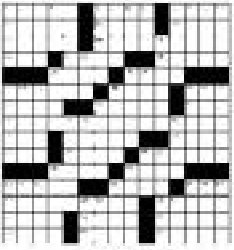


KIKO MACHINE — By Manix Abrera

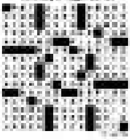


HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	2						7	
3		8	5		6	1		2
			7		2			
4								5
				9				
7								8
			6		4			
6		2	8		5	4		7
	5						1	

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Answer to previous puzzle

Dolphy still tickles funnybones in his 80s

By Bong M. Dimaano



DOLPHY: His MMFF entry reminds him of his old friends who have passed on.

ONE OF THE MOST RIB-TICKLING entries to the 2009 Metro Manila Film Festival is "Nobody, Nobody But Juan," a joint project of RVQ Productions ... starring the country's King of Comedy Dolphy.

The movie's storyline revolves around the joys and heartaches of senior citizens, as embodied by Juan, who lives in a nursing home in Chicago. ...

Reunion

...

Bigger and brighter treat



THE AMBRAS: Modern learning experience for the whole family.

...

MONTAGE

Cristine Reyes for Freego



REYES: Fashionable jeans and tops that are perfect for her image.

Pedro Gil band

'Holiday Cheers'

Yuletide to remember

Callalily

Penshoppe's holiday treats

On Animal Planet

Deriving pleasure from possessions

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Howard

SOMETIMES, OUR GREATEST happiness can also cause our deepest sorrow. ...

Joy and grief

...

Illusions and dreams

...

(To be concluded next week)

Unique gifts for stars. . .

From page E1



...







SM Megamall is the Philippine Retailers Association's Shopping Center Of The Year

SM Megamall recently received the **Philippine Retailers Association's Shopping Center of the Year Award** during its 2009 Outstanding Filipino Retailers and Shopping Center of the Year Night held recently at the Crowne Plaza in Ortigas Center.

This is the fourth time that an SM Supermall has been cited by the PRA since it launched the Shopping Center of the Year Award in 2002. SM City Baguio was earlier cited in 2005, and the SM Mall of Asia in 2007 and 2008.

Located along EDSA and Julia Vargas in the Ortigas Center, the **SM Megamall** created a lot of excitement when it was launched in 1991. At 350,000 square meters, it was not only mega in size but big in cutting edge concepts like the clustering of tenants; the Artwalk and the Art Center, which brought art to the people through its mall galleries; and the Mega Trade Hall. Later on, it opened a Cyberzone on the Fourth Level, the Mega Strip, Al Fresco dining until midnight along Julia Vargas; and the Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord on the Fifth Level. Today a total of 950 tenants can be found in Mega Building A, Mega Building B, and the Mega Atrium.

Since that time, the mall has undergone several renovations, making it more mega and more exciting. Last August, it launched the **Mega Atrium**, a niche mall within a mall with upscale stores and specialty restaurants for the upmarket crowd. It also features a grand Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord that also has an Adoration Chapel.

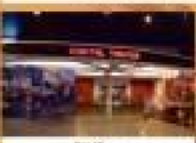
More recently, it opened a state-of-the-art Event Center on the Lower Ground Floor, which is designed for large concerts, exhibits, and performances. Able to accommodate 1,200 people, it is envisioned to be a premiere events center in the Ortigas area.

It has also been on the forefront of environmental projects with sustainable features like the Sewage Treatment Plant and energy saving measures; as well as consumer activities like segregated waste bins, the Recycling Market Fair where one can exchange trash for cash, the conferences like the Green Retail Agenda, and the Green Film Festival. Spearheading these activities in other SM Malls resulted in the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Excellence in Ecology and Environment Award for SM Prime Holdings last year.

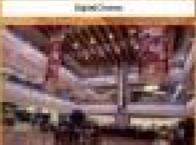


Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord





Digital Cinema



Event Center

